



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

June 18, 2007



The Capitol's East Front Plaza is gradually taking on a more finished appearance as evidenced in this aerial photo taken on June 12, 2007. More than 200,000 eight-inch square paving stones now dominate a plaza that had been covered with asphalt when excavation began in August 2002. A total of 85 new trees will replace the 68 trees that had been removed from the project footprint and 34 new Tulip Poplar trees have already been planted (center left). The historical Frederick Law Olmsted-designed fountains and lanterns have been reassembled in their original locations (center of photo). A new irrigation system has been installed in the Senate "egg" (foreground right) and the area is being cleared to prepare it for new topsoil deliveries expected later this week. Curving approaches that gently slope to the CVC entrances respect the intent of the Olmsted landscape, which emphasized the presentation of the Capitol as a key element to the park-like setting.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 6/18/07 through 6/22/07

- Masons continue setting wall stone cap pieces in several areas within the East Front of the Capitol as floor stone installation continues at the Crypt level (see top photo next page).
- A glass contractor has installed the last two remaining glass panels that enclose the Carriageway within the CVC transition zone. The glass panels allow natural light in while providing views of the House and Senate wings.
- Carpet and millwork installation continue in the Congressional Auditorium.
- Workers continue installing the bronze light fixtures in the Great Hall.
- In the Exhibition Hall, carpenters continue installing the decorative millwork to the House and Senate cases located along the back side of the Wall of Aspirations.
- A fountain plumbing contractor will begin preparing the CVC fountain pipes for operation so that final stone work can be completed in water features around the Great Hall skylights and at the base of the interior Great Hall stairs.
- Masons have nearly complete installing the stone cladding for the two exterior Plaza elevators.
- Air handling systems testing and balancing is continuing in corridors along both sides of the Great Hall.
- An audio-visual contractor has begun testing the sound systems for the two Orientation Theaters.



Masons set a piece of marble floor stone at the Crypt Level inside the East Front of the Capitol in an area just west of the main staircase and two escalators that connect the CVC to the Capitol. Up to 15,000 visitors a day will walk through this area to enter and leave the Capitol.

Next Week – 6/25/07 – 6/29/07

CVC and East Front Plaza Work

- Wall stone installation will near completion within the East Front of the Capitol and masons will continue installing floor stone at the Crypt level.
- Workers will continue installing millwork and other case components in the Exhibition Hall. Installation of the glass floor may resume.
- Carpet and millwork installation will continue in the Congressional Auditorium.
- Mechanical crews will continue testing and balancing the CVC's air handling system.
- Installation of wood and bronze door frames will continue in several areas throughout the CVC.
- Exterior elevator stone installation is expected to be completed. Grading activities will continue on the sloping terrain near the CVC entrances to prepare the ground for sod placement and other landscaping later this summer.
- Installation of decorative light fixtures will continue in the Great Hall and in several corridors.
- Stone and drywall installation will continue in the House Hearing Room. Ceiling plaster work continues around the perimeter of the House Stairwell Atrium.
- The contractor continues millwork installation in the Senate meeting rooms. Carpet installation is complete within the 21,000-square-foot Senate Recording Studio.



Just east of the Senate wing, masons set pavers in a decorative pattern inspired by a Frederick Law Olmsted-designed pattern that was identified by the project design team in photographs taken in the 1890s.

For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at tfontana@aac.gov or visit the project web site at www.aac.gov. Be sure to click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link on the homepage.